



## **A Journey of Achievement and Pride**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### **Ms. Wheelchair Virginia Praises the Capitol Building Restoration Efforts ~ Ms. Wheelchair Virginia Reviews Restoration Plans to Improve Handicapped Access ~**

RICHMOND, VA – On Wednesday, May 5 at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Wheelchair Virginia will be among the first to see a presentation about the upcoming three-year restoration project at the Virginia State Capitol.

Pamela Clark, Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, has been invited to attend an information session and Capitol tour that will combine discussions of the historical significance of the Capitol with the plans to restore the building and build an extension. The extension will be more than 20,000 square feet and will provide handicapped access to visitors and a standard receiving area for visitors. It will also include exhibit space, meeting rooms for the legislature and an enhanced security system.

“This is an exquisite historical building and I’m excited about the plans to update accommodations for individuals with disabilities,” said Pamela Clark, Ms. Wheelchair Virginia. “People don’t realize how difficult it can be to have to enter a building through a separate entrance or even through the backdoor because of the lack of adequate accessibility. These improvements to this building will show that historic buildings can be adapted and equipped for individuals with disabilities without losing their historical integrity.”

The tours are part of National Preservation Week. To commemorate this year’s theme of “New Frontiers in Preservation” the Commonwealth of Virginia is hosting a series of public information sessions and tours of the Virginia Capitol. Starting Wednesday, May 5 and continuing to Saturday, May 8, citizens can attend a Capitol tour and information session about the upcoming three-year restoration and extension project. To make reservations for the Capitol Tours and information sessions call 804-698-1522 or toll-free at 888-892-6948.

Pamela Clark, the 2004 Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, is from Martinsville Virginia. She has her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and will receive her Doctorate Degree in Education Administration in spring, 2004. She currently serves as the coordinator for the Piedmont Tech Prep Consortium and serves on local, state, and national boards for education, civic, and business duties. Her disability resulted from a spinal cord injury during a motorcycle accident and her platform as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia is education, awareness, and accessibility.

Ms. Wheelchair Virginia is a non-profit organization that focuses on the accomplishments of disabled Virginians. Our mission is to educate, advocate and raise awareness of the abilities and needs of our

disabled, but more importantly, to inspire and motivate Virginians as a role model of courage and perseverance.

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